

President-Elect Obama promises help to education

By Chris Shirley



"It's been a long time coming, but tonight change has come to America," said President Elect Barack Obama, after the announcement that he would be the first African-American president in United States History.

This election was truly historic with lots of promises being made to the general

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She's your Idol



Bookstore employee Eric Prewitt served as emcee of the Shelton Idol Contest won by Christie White. Prewitt never did follow through on his threat to sing—probably because the atrium audience proved attentive enough to the actual contestants.

After a month's competition, Christie White named singing contest winner

By Rachel B. Edwards

People stand anxiously in line, armed with pens, waiting for the pieces of paper that will let them choose the winner of the competition.

You may think this is the presidential election but this is far more important—this is Shelton State Idol '08!

Since Oct. 9 the voices of Shelton State Idol hopefuls filled the atrium on Thursdays during the lunch hour.

Twelve contestants, including myself, worked hard to bring something new to the competition each week in hopes of not being one of the three to be eliminated.

It's an intimidating ordeal to sing in the atrium trying not only to catch the ear of your audience but also students who just might be passing through to class.

That's why each contestant tried to find a song that would definitely appeal

There's no place like home—for basketball victory



Dorothy said it—and it has been oft repeated: there's no place like home; there's no place like home...

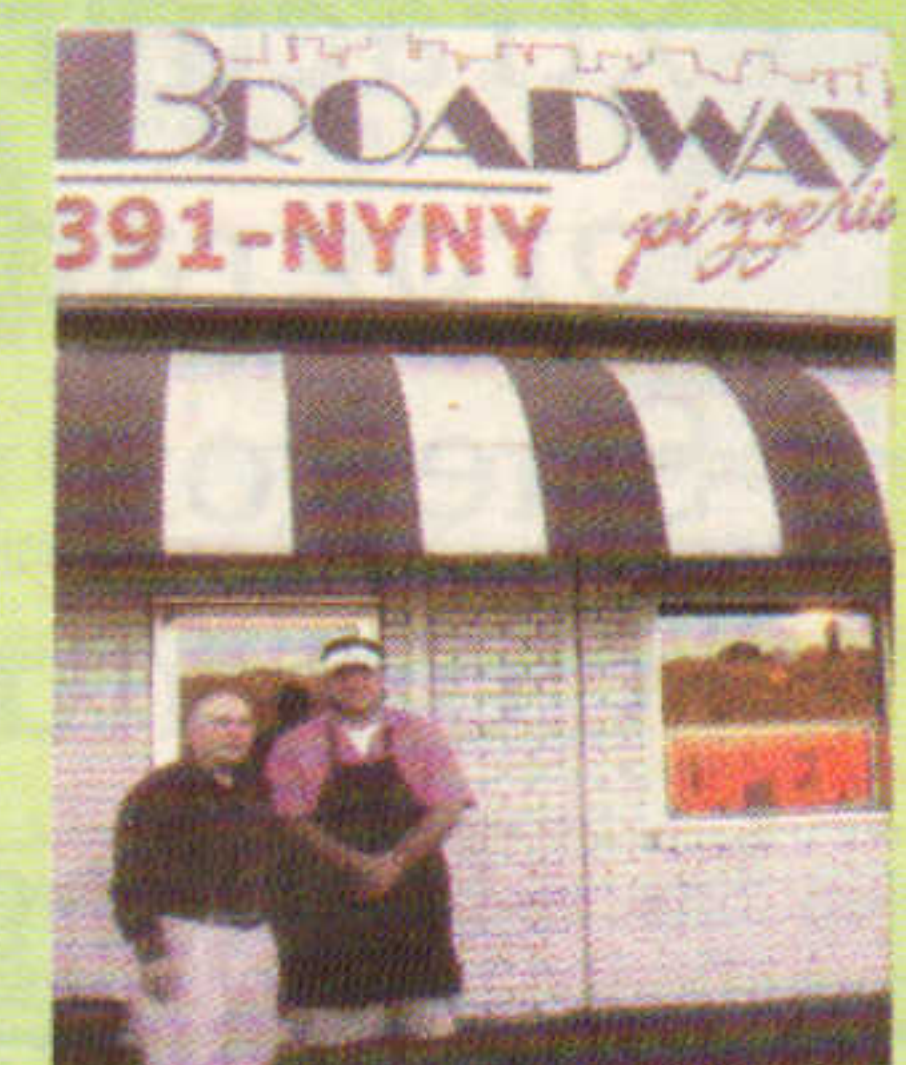
Both the Shelton State Buccaneers and the Lady Bucs got that basic lesson reinforced on Thursday night, Nov. 6.

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public.

With President Elect Obama busy making the transition into the white house and picking his staff, it leaves many to wonder if he will hold true to the promises he has made. One of those promises is affordable education.

Obama's College Affordability Plan creates hope for America's waning education system.

As previously stated, President Elect Obama plans to introduce the American Opportunity Tax Credit. This tax credit would cover the first \$4,000 of tuition and cover all the tuition at a traditional community college. He would also like to end government subsidies to the Federal Family Education Loan Program.

This would allow money to be transferred into a publicly funded Direct Loan program, providing lower cost loans for students. Obama also supports the more controversial Dream Act.

The Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors act would provide more accessible education to minors of illegal immigrants who have been in the United States since the age of 15. Upon high school graduation, the act would require that the students complete a two year

degree program, two years on a four year degree program, or two years of military service.

The students would have six years to complete the requirements and would be eligible for financial aid. The future of the Dream act still remains uncertain at this time. "We must fix the failures of No Child Left Behind. We must provide the funding we were promised and give our states the resources they need; and, finally, meet our commitment to special education," says the newly elected president.

Though we will have to wait and see if his campaign promises will be fulfilled, the fact that Shelton students remain divided over his win is very clear. "It's time for a change, and I feel with the new president our change is near!" says John Terrell, an Obama supporter.

Jessica Rutledge, a sophomore at Shelton disagrees. "I think America has made a big mistake! Most people voted because of race and not the policies," she says.

Finally Nicole Morrison, another sophomore and Shelton athlete, has a unique perspective on the turnout. "I wasn't really surprised at Obama winning, although I do wish it would have turned out differently.

"I think it will be interesting to see where Obama leads our country in the next four years," says Morrison.

Economy concerns college students

By: Caroline Robertson

The economy has taken its toll on all citizens of our great nation but most importantly it has affected our students here at home. Rising costs have made it difficult to live comfortably in today's world and more students are working now more than ever just to make ends meet.

The slowing economy also has those students who are anxious to enter the job market after graduating worried about finding the proper employment to prosper and pay back student loans. Recently the fall of gas prices has some hopeful that the economy is turning around for the better.

The amount of money we as individuals spend on gas today is surprising and in the past was somewhat taken for granted until the prices skyrocketed.

Money citizens used to put into circulation within our economy by means of shopping for groceries, clothing, cars, goods, and even pizza has all been absorbed by the gasoline market.

Northport Papa John's

employee Alyssa Tilley reports: "Sales have increased from \$3,500 to \$7,000 due to lower gas prices."

Students are hopeful that this sudden decrease in gasoline costs remains but are fearful that at any time they could spike once more.

Another major concern is that some students are being forced into working one or more jobs while attending college full time.

While students may be paying the bills, the quality of work and grades of those attending college is suffering causing failed classes consequently resulting in more loans extracted to pay for more classes.

According to the National Survey of Student Engagement, 66 percent of college seniors reported working for pay off-campus.

Although there has always been a large number of students here in Tuscaloosa that work to help pay their way through college, the increasing number of students entering the job-market while still in college, could potentially become an issue in a smaller college community with an insufficient job market.

The economy and failing job market also has those students who are graduating concerned about whether or not they will be able to support themselves.

An assistant professor of economics, Oleg Korenok, says that "students need to focus now more than ever on making themselves competitive in the job market through internships and good academic standing".

In August of 2008 the national rate of unemployment was at a high of 6.1 percent and this can be overwhelming for seniors knowing that they are graduating into a market with little to no demand for employees.

All Americans are becoming fearful for our plunging economy and during this great crisis it is critical that a solution is made to protect the future of this great nation, our students.

The deteriorating market is truly affecting those who are entering the world of business for the first time and with the recent rejection of the economic bailout, there is only speculation as to where our job market will be in the future.

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Among its functions, it is
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with the students in the pro-

duction of this paper.

All publications are sub-
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the responsibility to review
all college publications for
content and accuracy.

The Courier is an equal
opportunity employer and
student organization. All
students are encouraged to
participate.

With the Wyatts, pizza is a family thing

By Elisabeth Wyatt

Pepperoni, ham, sausage and pineapples are all a part of a tasty pizza's ingredients. For the Wyatts, owners of an independent pizzeria located on Rice Mine Road, toppings were the least of their worries when opening their restaurant.

Broadway Pizzeria has been in business since April of 2002. Owner Eric Wyatt is from right here in Alabama but has always been a fan of the New York Yankee baseball team.

Before 2002, Wyatt was working as a paramedic and was employed at a local Papa John's as a side job. Wyatt and a friend got a chance to go to a Yankee's game in New York, and when Wyatt returned home, he told his family about his new dream: to own his own pizza place with wood-fired ovens.

He had seen many restaurants with wood-fired ovens while he was visiting New York and he knew there was nothing similar around Tuscaloosa.

"We thought to have a successful business we would have to offer something unique. Wood-fired ovens sounded like a good idea for Tuscaloosa. There was nothing like this around here, it just sounded like something that would work for us," said Wyatt.

His wife and family, including four children between the ages of nine months and 13 at the time, were not really sure of what their father had in mind.

The Wyatts had always gotten by with their normal jobs, but with two new babies in the family, they thought that they would need some extra income.

Wyatt and his friend found a building placed on Rice Mine Road close to Randall Publishing, and it was available for rent. The only problem was, it would need some work done to it since it was an older building.

Wyatt and his father



Employee of Broadway Pizzeria and Shelton State Student Jesse Davis.

worked on fixing the building. "My father and I spent many long hours and days working on the building. We did everything from knocking out walls and building new ones, making higher ceilings, putting tile on the floors, putting light fixtures up and everything else of that nature. We just had to convert an old building into a restaurant," Wyatt said.

After about a year of building, restoring, passing out flyers, making a menu and hiring employees, Broadway Pizzeria was almost ready to open for business.

Before opening day, Wyatt and his long-time friend and business partner parted ways; this would make Wyatt the sole owner. After that day, things seemed unreal to the Wyatt family.

It was basically a neighborhood pizzeria because for the first time, residents across the dam on Lake Tuscaloosa could actually get pizza delivered to their doors.

"We were actually busier than we expected to be, we felt very unprepared," Eric's wife, Diana Wyatt, said.

It was not always easy, but the Wyatts kept their focus on making high-quality food and having valued service for

their new customers.

"We basically dove in head first, we had no system to begin with so we had to make a system of our own, no one knew what to expect," said manager Kevin Rowland.

Employees were not hard to find either; they would come and go. Some employees would stay for a very long time, years even. One employee, Wade Simpson, says that he really enjoys working in a pizza place. He also says that it is fun and exciting. Simpson has worked there for over two years.

In the fall of 2005, Wyatt was working on an electrical breaker box on the outside of the business and accidentally shortened the electrical circuit. The circuit ended up forming a fire-ball that exploded and caused Wyatt third-degree burns all over his face and arms. He was rushed to DCH and spent two days there, being treated for the burns. Wyatt ended up resting at his home for about two weeks.

During the two weeks Wyatt was healing, his wife Diana Wyatt started helping more at their restaurant. Diana ended up running the store solely during this hard

time. Diana kept up with everything from then on and Eric kept their two small children since they did not attend pre-school. "I basically ended up having two full-time jobs because I already had one full-time job to begin with," said Diana.

Diana and Eric also got help from their other two older children. Rachel Wyatt, one daughter of the Wyatts, and an employee of the business, said, "I try my best to help my parents with the business and with my two younger siblings; I try to understand

how hard owning a business can be for my parents. I help out in any way possible."

I am the oldest of the children in my family, a full-time student, and also an employee of our family business.

Since 2002 we have kept our word on great food and friendly attitudes. Inside Broadway, we have two "Renato" wood-fired ovens; you can basically watch your food cook through our big, open kitchen. At the restaurant, you can dine-in, carry-out or have your food delivered.

Our menu consists of all types of Italian food straight from the oven. From a Philly cheese steak to a huge Muffaletta sandwich. From a build your own pizza, to one of our specialty pizzas, the pizzas are literally made from scratch from our own recipes. From a delicious calzone to one of our salads, we work very hard to please our loyal customers and new ones too.

It has been a long, extreme ride for us, but in the end, it has all been worth it.



Owner Eric Wyatt (L) and manager Kevin Rowland hang together in front of Broadway Pizzeria on Rice Mine Road.

Basketball cont'd

For after both teams lost games in the Itawamba Tipoff Classic Tournament the week before, the teams turned it around on their foes in the Umphrey Center on campus.

The ladies beat the Itawamba Indians first in their game starting at 5:30. The women had lost to Northeast Mississippi the week before but had eked out a victory over Itawamba. At home they swamped the Indians, winning 73-52—and most impressively—taking a 43-19 halftime lead.

The men looked to face a step uphill climb all season after losing twice in Fulton, Miss., to Northeast Mississippi and to Itawamba. But the Bucs rode a wave of hometown enthusiasm to a working margin most of the night before registering their 87-74 victory.

For fans looking to come out for entertainment's sake, Coach Barry Mohun's Bucs present a smallish, hustling team with one member, at least, who is

willing to parachute in to put on a show. Freshman



Courtney Carr threw down two "spectaculosos," one to begin the game and one to finish. The closing two-hander earned press mention, but it was the alley-oop opener that served notice that the circus is in town.

Carr, on the receiving end of about four lob passes during the evening, took the first one about two feet over the rim, took a gravitational pause and all but saluted before pounding it home.

Madonna Thompson's women's squad is gather-

ing strength and confidence—as they always seem to do. The three-times-running national tournament entry is finding and assigning roles to its players, Thompson told reporters after the game.

ness. "I love shooters," she said. "They make this game so much easier."

DON'T MISS THE SHOW at the UMPHREY CENTER

Nov. 13:
Meridian, men's and women's, 5:30 and 7:30

Nov. 20:
Lurleen B. Wallace (homecoming), 5:30 and 7:30

Nov. 24-25:
Southland Classic, Faulkner State and Wallace-Selma, 7:30

Dec. 8:
Alabama Southern and Talladega J.V., 5:30 and 7:30



For entertainment value, the Lady Bucs look to feature at least one passing and one scoring machine. China Antoine (a great name nominee) charted 12 assists and Marquisha Loper displayed a willingness to put it up from anywhere with her 22 points. After much success several years of experience, Thompson is even learning the delights of media frank-

Scenes from a night at the Umphrey Center on the Martin campus

Photos by Jim Kenny and Errica Walker



You still have time!

Due Nov. 17
by 5 p.m.



Maxwell's Crossing

is looking for *your* handiwork!

Submit your poetry, prose—including fiction and creative essays—and visual artwork.

Awards will be given to the best poem, best prose work, and best visual artwork.

Submit online at
jkenny@sheltonstate.edu
or bring to the Courier office, room 2319.

Shel-Shots



The Cowgirl and the Rodeo Clowns won the Shelton State Halloween Costume contest this year; always a highlight the little kids who came to the campus to trick-or-treat were amply treated; President Mark Heinrich and Holly Elliott presented Sharon Brown the trophy for the winning entry in the annual paper airplane flying contest in the atrium; former student and boxer Deontay Wilder was the speaker at this year's Breakfast of Champions, enjoyed by all, including the Nursing department.

Infrastructure

(A series about how the college is put together)

By Susan Mohun

The Student Organizations Center opened in the fall of 2007 with the intent purpose of providing a space for student clubs and organizations to be able to meet and gather in an inviting atmosphere. Cy-bucs is also located in the Student Organizations Center and provides an area for individuals and/or groups to enjoy a cup of coffee, check emails and My Space, study, and/or just sit and visit with friends. Additionally, the SOC is where support services for the college's student-athletes are housed.

The staff of the Student Organizations Center includes Assistant Dean of Students Services for Student Organizations and Athletics Susan Mohun and her secretary Jan Rainer, Special Events Coordinator and Ambassador sponsor Deborah Bonner, and Ambassador Sponsor, and

Ronda Shirley, who oversees Cy-Bucs and the Shelton State Alumni Association. The friendly and helpful Errica

Walker staffs the receptionist desk.

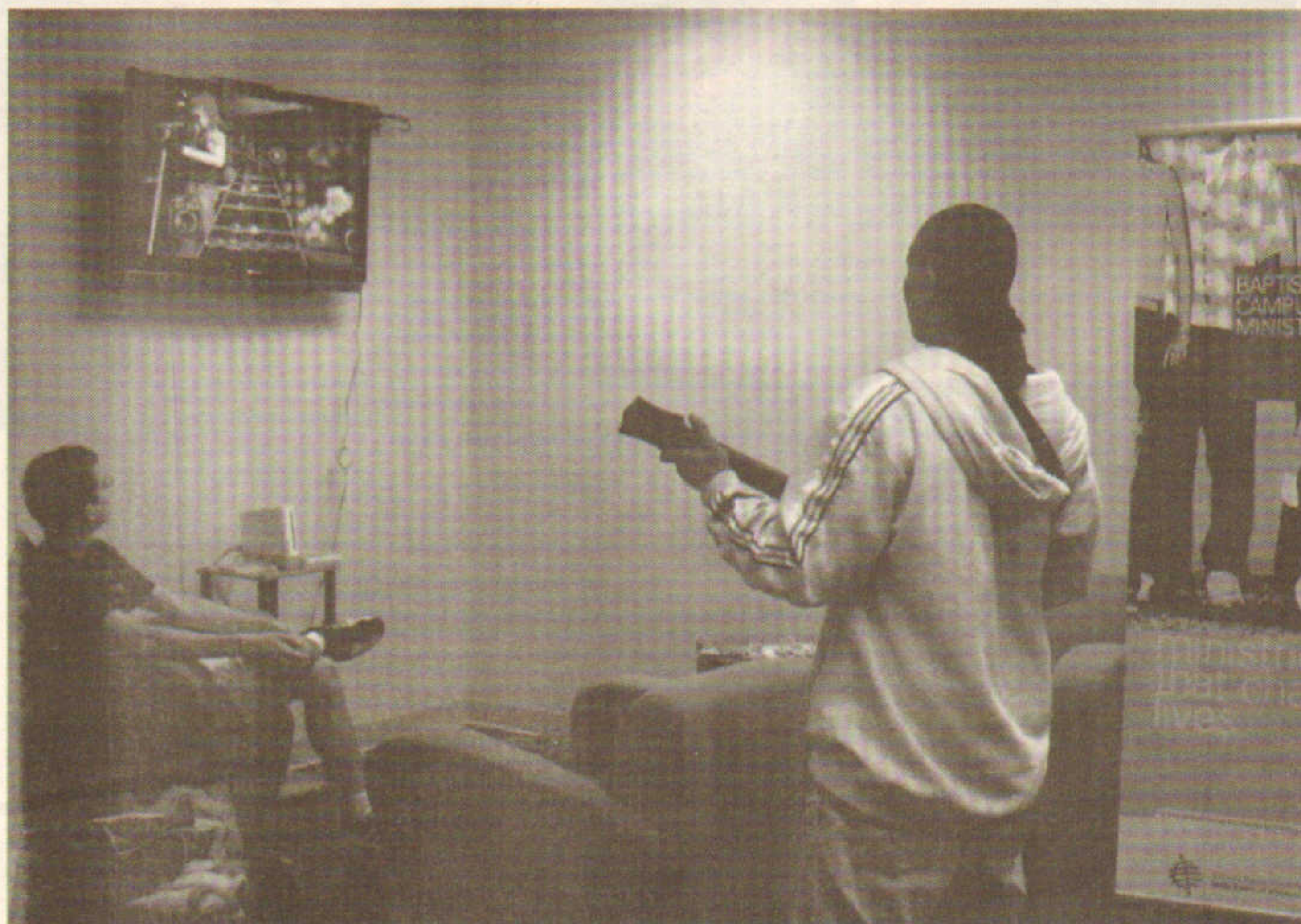
When you enter the Student Org Center one of the

first things you may notice is Green. Shelton State Green. Our school color. I feel passionately about our green vision,

that even though our campus was undeniably beautiful and impeccably maintained, there was no real excitement, no school identity or school spir-



One of the few places on campus for students to hang out at is the CyBucs cyber cafe next to the Student Organization Center on the second floor of the Martin campus.



The SOC has been the site of some impromptu Guitar Hero sessions--an activity the Courier is still trying to organize formally.



Student Affairs staffers Errica Walker (L) and Ronda Shirley are always pursuing one project or another.

it. Our hallways could easily be confused with those of a hospital or nursing home. I wanted at least one area to say we are Shelton State. We are the Buccaneers."

We consistently win the state championship and are ranked nationally in all of our athletics but if you walk off

When I was designing the center, this was one of my main goals!! Over the past years as I walked around campus, I was always frustrated

the street onto our campus you would never see any visible sign of it. So I definitely had a vision that the Student Organizations Center

Student Organizations Center

would be one place in the college that would give some identity to our successes in athletics and be able to showcase our outstanding student groups. To that end, I still want more photos and posters on the walls but we are getting there.

Several student groups, including the Ambassadors, Phi Theta Kappa, FCA, Baptist Campus Ministries and Athletic Team Council hold their regularly scheduled meetings in either the conference room or the adjacent classroom. The baseball and bas-



provide technical training and transfer credit at an affordable rate for the service area immediately surrounding a school? Are we supposed to have all of the frills and extras of a major university?

Of course, this is a question I struggle with. I know that I can plan activities all I want, but if the vast majority of students are leaving right after class, attendance is going to be low. I think we do have a core group of traditional students that do want clubs and organizations and I think we offer this population ways to get involved. And I am always open to starting new groups as they are proposed. However, I'm pretty realistic about the fact that we probably won't ever have a flag football league or a clubhouse for students to hang out in over the weekends.

Considering the fact that we don't have dorms and being in a town the size of Tuscaloosa I think the majority of our students are going to do most of their socializing at their apartments and/or at other establishments.

I do think if our population of out of area students grows significantly and if we ever were to consider on-campus housing, we would



ketball teams use the classroom for study hall and students enjoy the lobby area to catch up on world news and current happenings on campus via the large screen TVs. Over the past few weeks the lobby has been a lively place with fun, yet sometimes quite heated election debate.

In the upcoming weeks, we are looking forward to our Go Green Homecoming activities, including an on-campus guest speaker, voting for our 2008 homecoming queen, and our defending state champi-

onship men's and women's basketball teams taking the court.

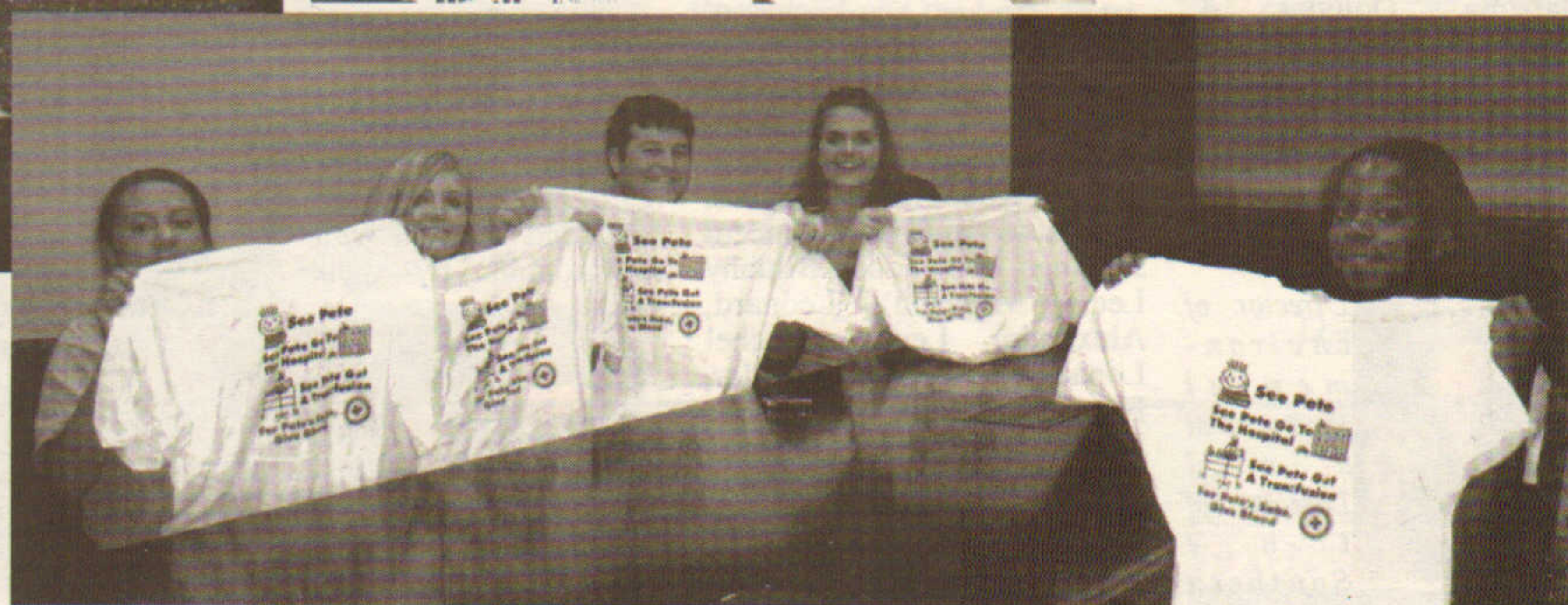
Of course, all of this talk of student groups and activities raises a question that is as old as the community college itself. What role do clubs

and organizations play at an institution where the vast majority of our students are

focused on taking classes, either full-time or part-time, and then leaving campus for

work and family obligations? Wasn't the original purpose of our 2 year college system to

address this issue and quite possibly expand our offerings.



The Student Organizations Center is the place to get your work done. Recent activities have included, (top to bottom) Phi Theta Kappa and their recycling phonebook project; the Ambassadors annual Halloween project of packing goodies for nursing home residents; students wrapping Christmas presents in the SOC as a fundraiser; and the Ambassadors showing off their T-shirts from a Red Cross blood drive.

News from Phi Theta Kappa

PTK presents second in series of speakers

Phi Theta Kappa and the Shelton State Science Department are sponsoring an environmental presentation by Director of Environmental Programs/Director of the Southern Environmental Center at Birmingham Southern College, Roald Hazelhoff.

The presentation will be Nov. 13 at 3:30 p.m. in room 2255. All students and faculty are invited.

Hazelhoff, ACS Environmental Fellow and Southern Environmental Center director, is the mastermind behind the EcoScapes blooming all over Birmingham. His tireless efforts to make nature accessible in low income neighborhoods are a model for sustainability enthusiasts around the South.

Hazelhoff is the second speaker in the series, following Assistant Professor of Environmental Sciences at the University of West Alabama, Douglas A. Wymer.

Wymer spoke on the issue of Biofuel, outlining its potential and pitfalls on Oct. 23.



Director of environmental Programs and Director of the Southern Environmental Center at Birmingham Southern College, Roald Hazelhoff will be speaking about trash on Nov. 13 in room 2255. He is second in the PTK speaker series, following Douglas A. Wymer, who spoke about biofuel on Oct. 23.

PTK fall inductions

Established by Missouri two-year college presidents in 1918, Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society serves to recognize and encourage the academic achievement of two-year college students and provide opportunities for individual growth and development through honors, leadership and service programming. Today, Phi Theta Kappa is the largest honor society in American higher education with more than 1.3 million members and 1,100 chapters located in 50 United States, U.S. territories, Canada, Germany, and Japan. In 1929, the American Association of Community Colleges recognized Phi Theta Kappa as the official honor society for two-year colleges.

The following students were inducted into the Alpha Epsilon Iota Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa on Oct. 21:

Noel Al-Atassi, Joseph Almony, Levi Amerson, Adam Brown, Jenna Carroll, Kati Chastine, Reverie Chappell, Jessica Davis, Jacob Doughty, Casie Franklin, Nathan Gregg, Lindsey Hall, Scott Haydu, Ashley Hughes, Katherine Huffman, Vincent Jennings, Mark Jones, Brittany Lee, Maryann Leonard, Alexandra Lewis, Rachel Lopacki, Robert Miller, Elizabeth Morrison, Jonathan Myers, Shirley Reid, Lauren Riley, Tara Shirley, Matthew Summerford, Talley Tudisco, Melissa Savannah, Anna Turner, April Walker, Terry West, and William Whitaker.



Idol cont'd from Page 1

to the masses to secure enough votes to pass to the next round. There was a good student turnout during performances but most students didn't vote or were not able to due to classes, so most votes came from family and friends of the contestants.

Over the weeks the contestants dwindled until only three stood Cecily Deavours, Christie White, and me. On Nov. 6 Christie White won the title of Shelton State Idol '08. I asked White what her experience had been like during Idol, she said,

"It was fun! I enjoyed meeting contestants and making new friends. Everyone was wonderful!... I love Shelton for giving me the great opportunity to be a part of Shelton State Idol competition and I'd like to thank the judges who gave me a chance to compete."

White was presented with a bouquet of flowers, a plaque for Shelton State Idol

'08, and the \$500 reward scholarship.

Last but certainly not

made him such a good MC and he replied,

"I consider

least, lively Shelton Idol MC, Eric Prewitt, kept the audience on their toes by being personable and with the constant threat of singing. I asked Prewitt what he thought of the competition and where would he like to see it go in the future, he said,

"I think it's a great competition in which students compete for a scholarship. It's open to anyone, any student has a chance. I'd like to see more people try out because we have a lot of great singers."

I also asked him what



myself a people person and I like to make people feel involved and comfortable, I've been dubbed Ryan Seacrest of Shelton State... It was a lot of fun!"

A time to work, and a time to party...

On Tuesday, Nov. 4, the college tried something a little different in its ongoing quest to find the right way to honor its new retirees.

When you plan something for one, then something might not work out.

So let's try nine.

That was the number of retirees who were feted and honored with testimonials by their



supervisors as well as their co-workers.

The retirees for this session were Polly Poovey Bailey, Kay Fields, John Flannigan, Tammy Gray, Lois Griffin, Peggy Hogue, Susan looney, Mary Morrow and Lori Swindle.

The reception was held at 1 p.m. in the D Rooms in the food court area of the Martin Campus

Photos by Paul Brown.